

by the Board.

As well, the law limits the total amount of compensation that can be paid.

The estate of a deceased victim and the income it could provide also will be considered by the Board when assessing a claim.

### How Is An Application Made?

After reporting a violent occurrence to police, a victim of crime should contact the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board.

When all necessary documentation has been provided, the claim will be investigated. The claimant will be informed of a hearing date.

Awards made under the Compensation for Victims of Crime Act are paid out of funds provided by the Government of Ontario and the Government of Canada. The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board operates under the direction of the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General.

Information in this pamphlet is intended as a basic guide. Any questions should be directed to the Board.

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board  
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call  
(416) 965-4755 during business hours.

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WE  
CARE  
FOR  
VICTIMS  
OF  
CRIME



Ministry of  
the Attorney  
General

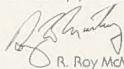
## A Message From The Attorney General

We in Ontario are fortunate to enjoy high standards of law enforcement and protection. But despite our best efforts crime continues to be a part of our lives.

The Ontario government recognizes the need for financial assistance to the innocent victims of crimes of violence. While a guilty verdict in court may satisfy the laws of our society, it may not always alleviate the physical, emotional and financial hardship suffered by victims of crime.

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board was established by an act of the Legislature in 1968. Members of the Board hear claims for compensation and make a decision based on the circumstances of the case. Financial awards may reflect medical costs, lost wages and out-of-pocket expenses resulting from the crime, as well as pain and suffering caused by the incident. The process is simple and informal.

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board is an important part of Ontario's justice system and is designed to assist victims simply and efficiently.



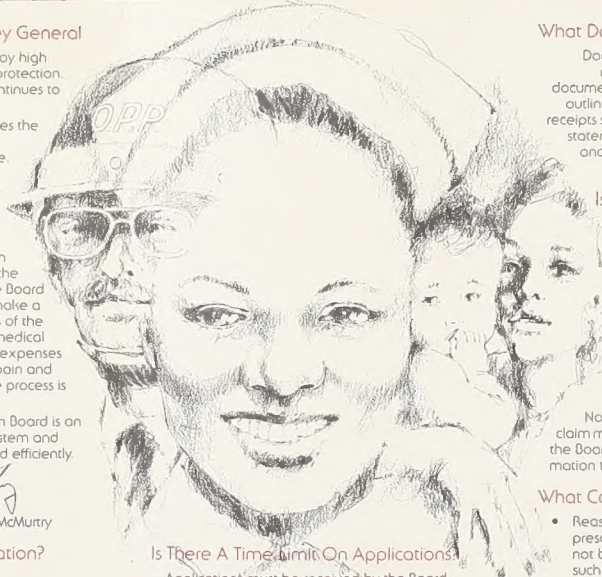
R. Roy McMurtry

## Who Is Eligible For Compensation?

- An innocent victim.
- A person responsible for looking after the victim, such as a parent.
- A dependant, spouse or relative if the victim dies.
- In certain situations, a person who pays expenses for the victim.

## What Circumstances Qualify For Compensation?

Compensation may be awarded where the injury or death results from an assault, wounding, murder, rape, or similar act. It may be awarded if the victim was assisting a police officer or was trying to stop or legally arrest someone who was committing or was about to commit a crime.



## Is There A Time Limit On Applications?

Applications must be received by the Board within one-year of the crime, except in unusual circumstances.

Do not wait for the courts to decide criminal charges and do not wait to gather all documents to support the claim. This information may be sent in later.

## Is A Guilty Verdict Necessary?

No. Compensation may be awarded even though charges are not laid or no one is found guilty. Applicants must prove their claim on a 'balance of probability'. For example, if an applicant claimed compensation for a broken arm he would have to show that the injury happened in circumstances that qualify for compensation.

## What Do I Have To Prove?

Documents and records will help the Board members to decide a claim. Among the documents which may help are medical reports outlining your injuries and treatment, bills and receipts showing your expenses, your employer's statement showing your wages and benefits, and an income tax return. The Board needs this information to assess a claim fairly.

## Is A Lawyer Necessary?

No. A lawyer is not required but one may assist you, especially if your claim is complex. It is the Board's practice to pay a modest legal fee to the lawyer for a successful applicant and to pay for reasonable and necessary costs involved in making a claim.

## Is The Hearing Conducted In The Same Way As A Court Hearing?

No. The process is much more informal. The claim may be heard by one or more members of the Board. The applicant is able to present information that is important in explaining the claim.

## What Could Compensation Include?

- Reasonable expenses such as medical bills, prescriptions and funeral expenses. You will not be paid for damage to personal items such as clothing or to property. Nor can you be paid for loss of cash or jewelry or other personal items.
- Lost pay because of inability to work after the injury.
- Lost income by dependants as a result of a victim's death.
- Pain and suffering for injuries.
- Support of a child born as a result of rape.
- Any other cost the Board feels is reasonable, such as expenses to attend the hearing and to obtain documents as well as the cost of an interpreter when needed.

Payments to a victim from an insurance plan, the Ontario Health Insurance Plan, Workmen's Compensation, unemployment insurance and similar sources will not be duplicated in an award.